Unauthorized and/or Inappropriate Tattoos and Symbols

Introduction

- Extremist groups tattoos and symbols.
- Prison tattoos.
- Numerical tattoos
- Controversial tattoos and symbols.
- How should we handle the issue when we spot them.
- NOTE: Most tattoos and symbols identified are considered controversial or extremist by the Anti-Defamation League.
- Gang and prison tattoos are from local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. These lists are not all inclusive.

Extremist/Supremacist Groups

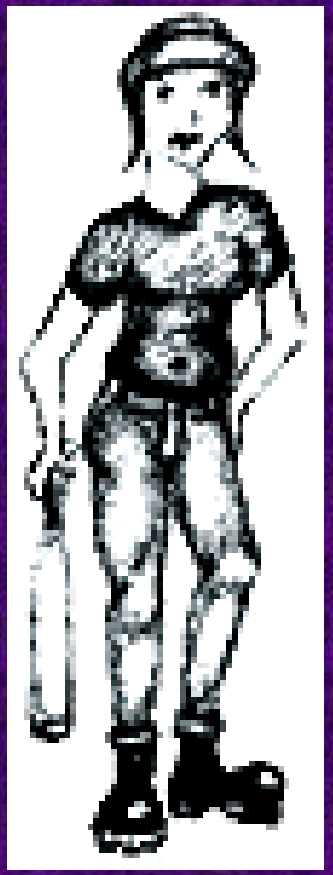
- This is one of the most popular tattoos or symbols for neo-nazi and white supremacist groups.
- Known as Odin’s Cross (Celtic in origin) and represents international white pride.
- Popularized by the KKK in the 1920’s.
- The display of this symbol caused a race riot in North Carolina in 1971.

Extremist/Supremacist Groups

- The White Aryan Resistance (WAR). Used by neo-nazi and Skinhead groups in the United States and Europe.
- This is an anti-Semitic and racist symbol.
- Have been known to make members enlist in the military to recruit new members

Extremist/Supremacist Groups

- This tattoo is normally used by female members of the Skinheads (racist or non racist).
- Known as the girlfriend of a Skinhead. Also denotes the Skinhead women's movement.

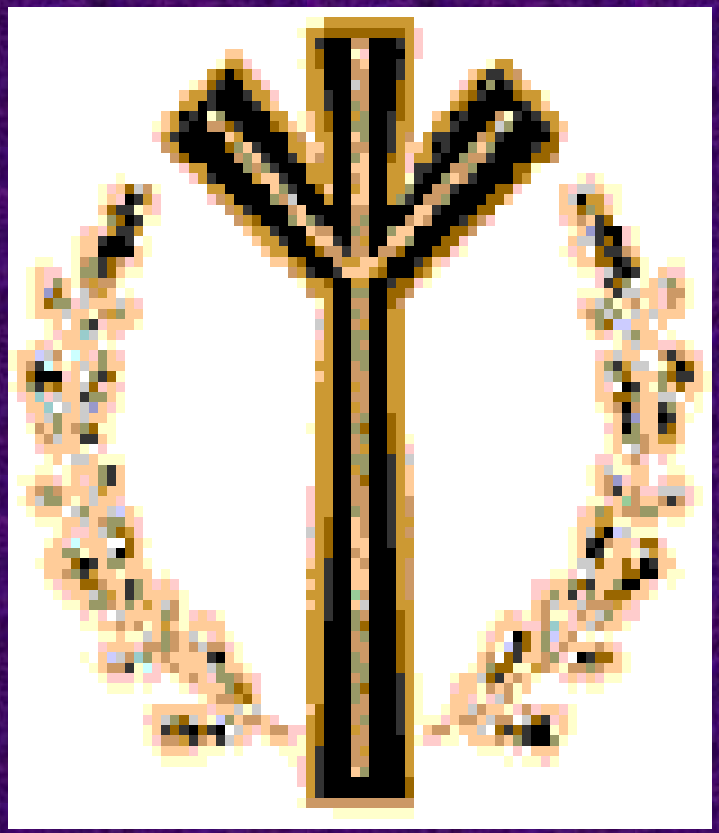


Extremist/Supremacist Groups

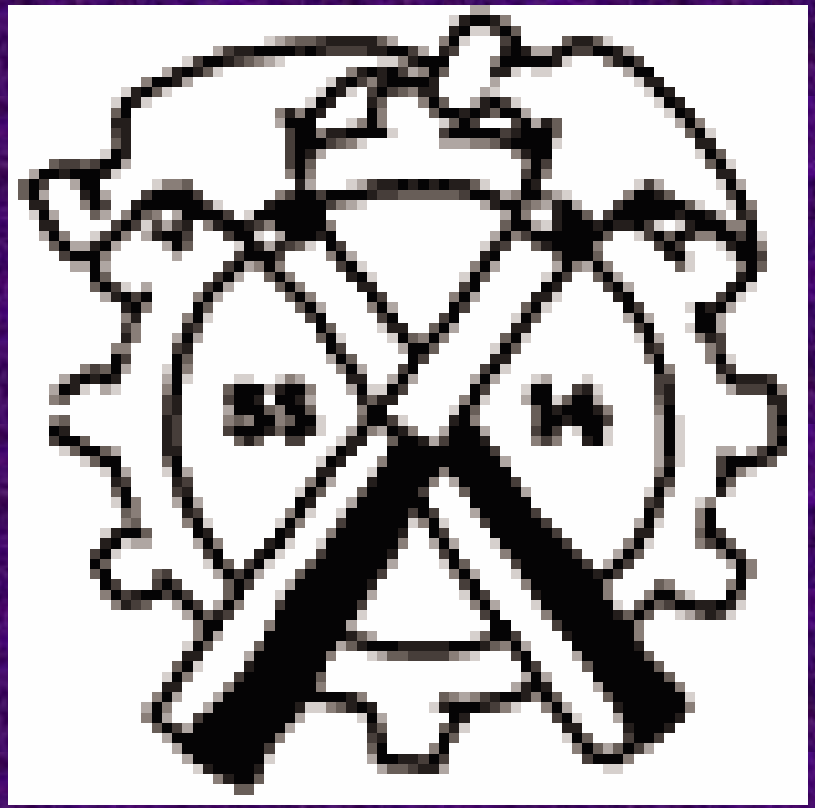
- Another White Aryan Resistance tattoo or symbol.
- As a tattoo, it denotes prison time served by the member or a family member that has committed a crime for the greater good of the movement.
- Also a symbol that represents Neo–Nazi Skinheads

Extremist/Supremacist Groups

- This tattoo (life rune) is taken from Norse Mythology. It signifies life, creation, birth, or renewal.
- An extremist group called The National Alliance uses this symbol to denote women (the giver of life) in the neo-nazi and white supremacist movements.
- Enlists women in the military for recruitment.



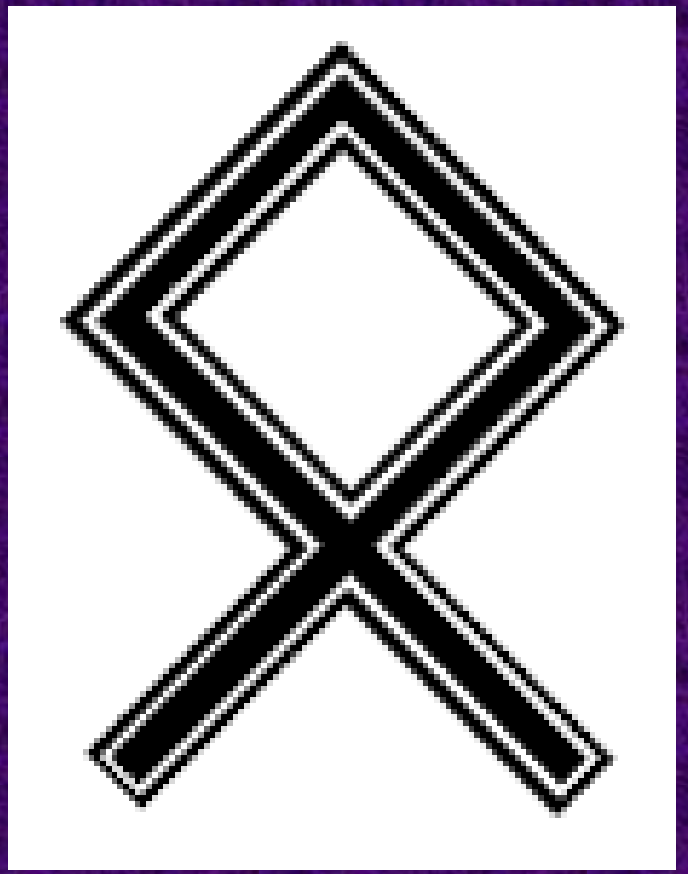
Extremist/Supremacist Groups



- This is the symbol of the Hammerskin Nation. The crossed hammers are usually set on different backgrounds.
- With chapters scattered world wide, Hammerskins maintain they represent the working class white.
- Prone to extreme violence.

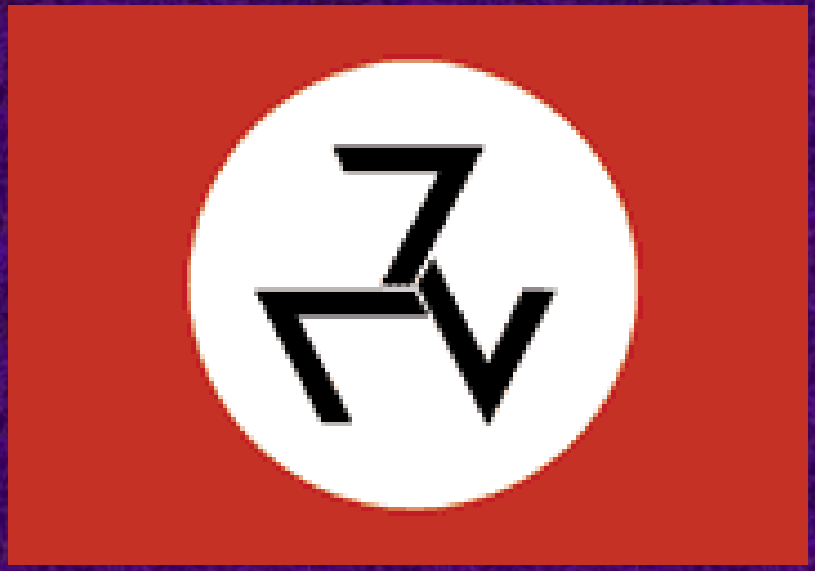
Extremist/Supremacist Groups

- General racist and neo-nazi symbol or tattoo.
- Known as Othala Rune, it expresses faith in the pagan religion of Odinism and was originally a symbol of the Vikings.
- Extremist now use it to promote Aryan heritage and cultural pride in Neo-Nazi and white Supremacist groups.



Extremist/Supremacist Groups

- Known as the Three Sevens and the Three Bladed Swastika.
- Used as a symbol or tattoo to identify general white supremacist groups world wide.
- Tattoos may look like this or 777 will be tattooed on the arms.

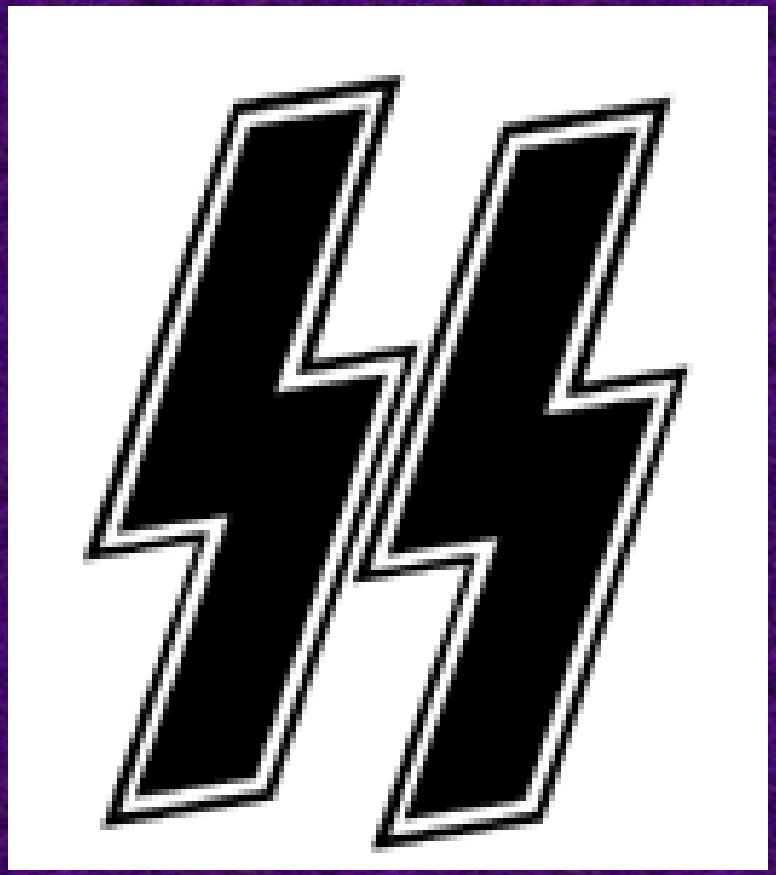


Extremist/Supremacist Groups

- This is a variant of the first KKK tattoo that was used in the early 20’s. the noose is the more significant symbol. Represents the large amount of lynching of blacks that took place in the early part of the last century.
- Unfortunately the tattoo is becoming more popular with the KKK and Aryan Nation.

Extremist/Supremacist Groups

- SS Bolts used by German special police , prison and concentration camp guards during WWII.
- Used in various tattoos mainly by the Neo-Nazi and Racist skinheads.
- Also used in graffiti and characterizes the belief of these extremist groups in Anti-Semitism, White Supremacy and Fascism.

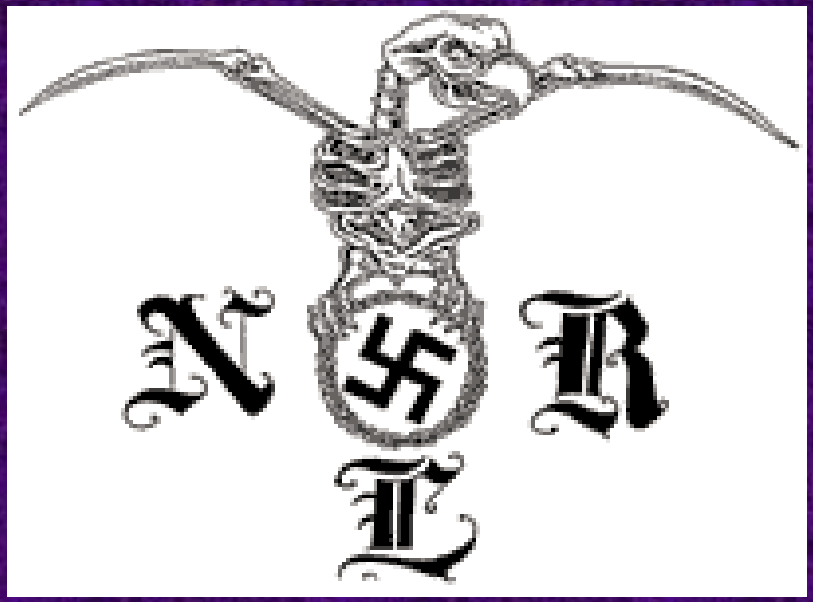


Prison Tattoos

- This tattoo is commonplace in most state and federal prisons.
- Represents the Aryan Brotherhood. Denotes recruitment while in prison.
- Not normally seen unless prison time has been served by the member.

Prison Tattoos

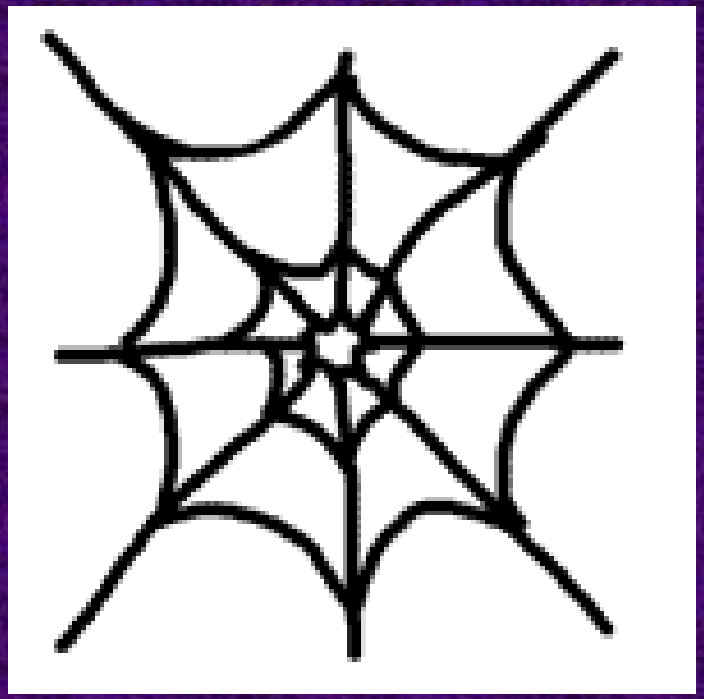
- The initials “NLR” (Nazi Low Riders) combined with with Nazi symbols and icons.
- This is a street and prison gang whose origins date back to the late 70’s.
- Prone to violence and recognized as a criminal gang by law enforcement agencies.



Prison Tattoos

- Another Nazi Low Rider tattoo. This was found on a prospective Army recruit.
- The Swastika was superimposed after his second prison term.
- It is not unusual for gangs to try to enter the military. Gangs try to recruit military personnel for black market contacts and drug importing and sales.

Prison Tattoos

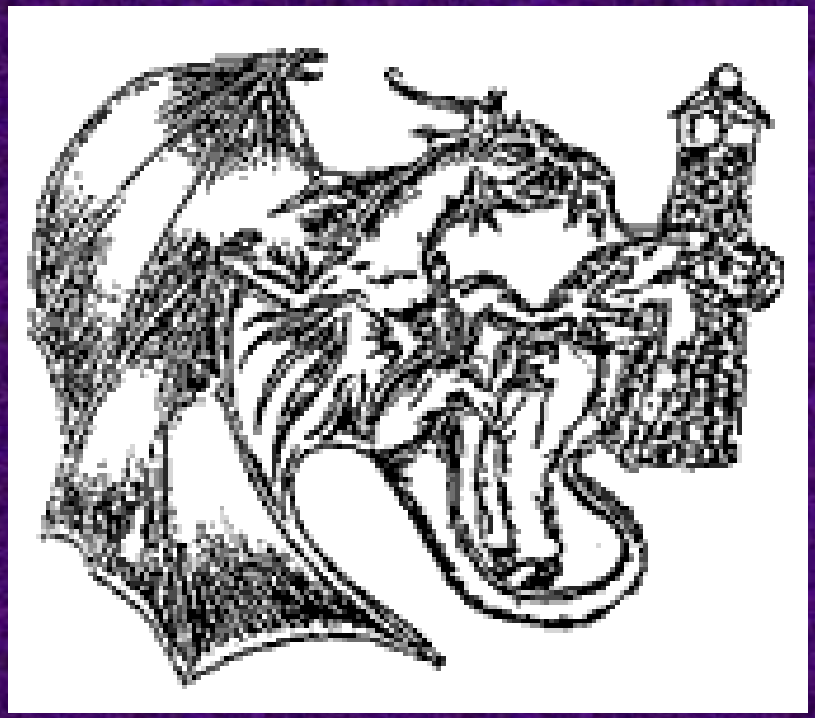


- The spider web design tattoo is often found on the arms or under the arms of racists who have spent time in jail.
- In some places, one apparently “earns” this tattoo by killing a minority.
- However non-extremist may sometimes sport this tattoo as well, unaware of the symbology, simply because they like the design.

Prison tattoos

- This tattoo is found on mostly Native Americans that have served prison time.
- Texas, Arizona and Missouri state prisons are the predominate facilities where this tattoo is worn. Used by several criminal street gangs.
- Symbolizes an Indian warrior. Each feather stands for a commission of a crime against white society. Worn on the neck or scull.
- This is another tattoo that is worn by personnel not knowing story behind the design.

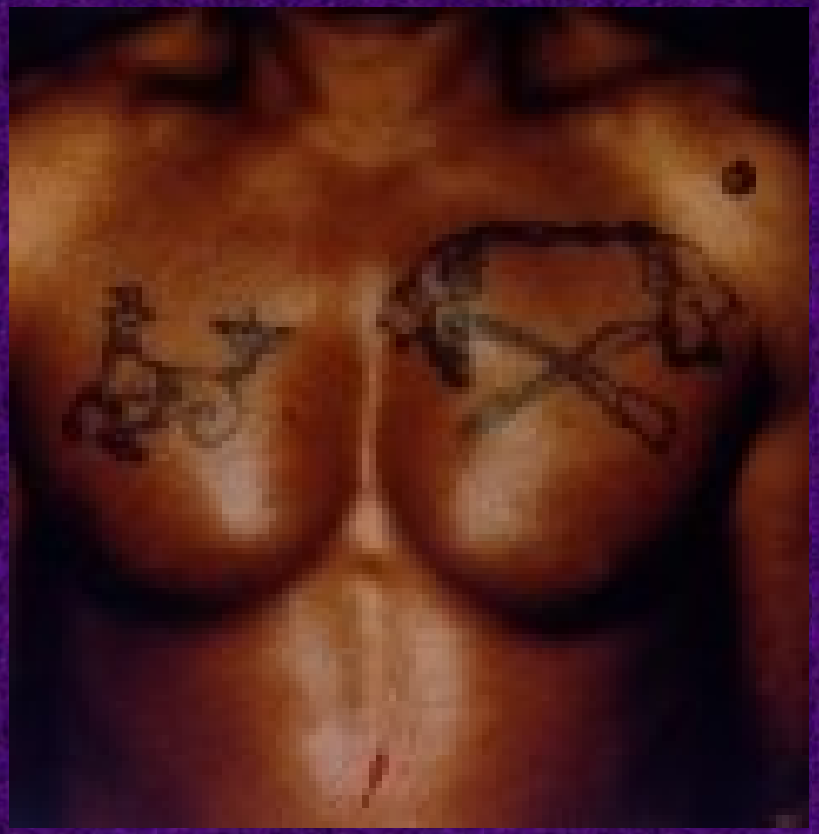
Prison Tattoos



- BGF(Black Guerrilla Family).
- Combined with cross sabers, shotguns and black dragons taking over prison towers provide the back drop for this tattoo.
- This gang was started at San Quentin State prison in 1966 by former Black Panther, George L. Jackson.
- The gang has a strong political ideology that promotes black revolution and the overthrow of government.
- Members have recruited non gang members to enter the military.

Prison Tattoos

Member of the black gorilla family shows his tattoos of a dragon attacking a prison gun tower(left) and two hands chained over a crossed rifle an sword (right). Also considered a gang tattoo.



Numerical Tattoos

- 14(words)- Used as a general tattoo by white supremacist groups. Meaning: (We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children.)
- 88 – The eighth letter of the alphabet is “H”eight two times signifies “HH” or HIEL HITLER. Normally worn as a tattoo on the upper arm or back. Also seen on hate group flyers.
- 311- the eleventh letter of the alphabet is “K”. 3 times 11=“KKK”. Can be worn as a tattoo but is normally found on flyers and letters.

Numerical Tattoos

- 100% - this is an expression of an individuals pure Aryan or white roots. It is common among white supremacists. Can be a tattoo or used as a saying between members of the group.
- 4/19 – the anniversary date of two events: the confrontation between the Brach Dividians and federal agents in Waco, Texas and the Oklahoma City Bombing. This date is sometimes used as a tattoo by anti-government hate groups.
- 4/20 Hitler's birthday. Neo-Nazis. Enough said.

Numerical tattoos

- 18 – this tattoo represents the Initials of Adolph Hitler. First letter of the alphabet is “A” and the eighth letter is “H”.
- 23 - Represents the 23rd letter of the alphabet. “W” used by white supremacist and skinheads.

Gang tattoos

- “RBD” Red Blood Dragons
- Prevalent in California, New York, Minnesota, Illinois, and Oregon.
- This tattoo is typical due to the hand made tattoo shape of the letters.
- You will find that the majority of this type of tattoo are in old English gothic letters.
- Dual tattoos on both forearms are called “stakes”. Meaning that he or she has been inducted into that gang for life

Gang tattoos

- Same as the previous page but professionally done. Note the old English gothic letters

Gang tattoos

- Originally Vietnamese, this tattoo denotes “circle of friends” one person protected by a group. Used by the Bloods, Asian Triad, and Gangster Disciples .

Gang Tattoos

- This member is affiliated with the Gangster Disciples.
- The number 6 is the sign of the Gangster Disciples.
- J-bone is the street name of the person wearing the tattoo.
- The rest of the tattoo is a smoking joint with a ghostly face portrayed. Meaning is that the gang is protective of its boundaries and harm will come to other gangs that cross their boundaries.

Gang Tattoos

- This is the more common tattoo that represents the Gangster Disciples
- A six pointed star represents the gang itself. The pitchfork at the top symbolizes the direction of the gang members. The cane at the bottom represents his support and position in the gang.

Gang Tattoos

- The “Santana” is the Spanish pronunciation of “Santa Ana”. A Latino Gang located in Orange County, California.
- Santa Ana has the largest number of gangs and gang members in the U.S.
- This tattoo is given to every Hispanic gang member (regardless of which gang the member belong too) to signify the member was from Orange County, California.
- Notice the gothic letters inherent to many gangs

Gang Tattoos

- The Santana tattoo must be closely monitored. Not all gang members that receive this tattoo is part of a criminal gang.
- Several of these gangs support law enforcement, community service,and political and social agendas.
- But there are just as many that are considered criminal gangs.

Gang Tattoos

- This Hispanic gang member is wearing (Smile Now, Cry Later) tattoos. Used by many Hispanic gangs.
- The distinctive tattoos are of a Spanish soldier smiling on the forward part of the left shoulder .
- The five pointed crown located near the center of the arm represents the Mexican Mafia.
- The soldier tattoo alone does not mean he or she is a gang member.

(Continued on next slide)

Gang Tattoos

- This is the same member with a Spanish soldier crying located on the right shoulder.
- All three of these tattoos must be present to be affiliated with this gang.
- Gang members wearing this are considered prone to extreme violence.

Controversial/Inappropriate Tattoos

- Most people recognize this symbol or tattoo. Its history has been associated with the slavery issues during the civil war.
- Some state capitals still fly the “stars and bars”.
- For military members this tattoo is unauthorized and is considered an extremist tattoo or symbol. Does not promote good order and discipline in the military.
- Many extremist groups use this tattoo or symbol to promote hate and cause riots.

Controversial/Inappropriate Tattoos

- Any tattoo that can be deemed sexual in nature or expose sensitive body parts are no longer acceptable.
- This example can be covered or clothing added to make it acceptable.

Controversial/Inappropriate Tattoos

- This tattoo looks innocent enough , but ask the question “what does this mean”.
- This particular tattoo is the Chinese word for “Hate”.
- Good judgment and asking the tough questions is the only way to determine whether a tattoo is inappropriate.

Controversial/Inappropriate Tattoos

- This tattoo is a Celtic cross. The person wearing it does not know that several hate groups and street gangs use this tattoo to identify members.
- Though the tattoo is conservative it may or may not be inappropriate

Controversial/Inappropriate Tattoos

- Again the Celtic cross is in use. The circular pattern in the center of the cross is associated with the KKK.
- The satanic theme may be perceived as a gang tattoo.
- Again the person does not realize the meaning of this tattoo.

Tattoos and their Meaning

- Clock faces without hands.....Doing time
  Tombstones with numbers on them.....The years they were inside
  Tombstones with numbers and RIP.....Mourning the death of a friend
  Spider or cobb webs on elbows or shoulders.....Doing time
  Eight balls.....Behind the eight ball or bad luck
  One laughing face, one crying face.....Play now, pay later or my happy life, my sad life
  SWP.....Supreme white power
  Peckerwood.....White pride (males)
  Featherwood.....White pride (females)
  Viking themes.....Common Caucasian tat
  Granite block walls.....Time in Old Folsom Prison
  100 % pure.....Pure white or Anglo
  Cell window with sun or bird showing.....Waiting to get out
  Face of female crying.....Has someone on the outside waiting
  SUR.....Southerner
  Norteano.....Northerner
  Prison block wall with bricks falling outward.....Inside wanting to get out
- This is a list of the most common type of tattoos. List is not all inclusive.

Handling the Issue

- Use the resources of the local, state and federal agencies. There are several websites that will assist you in determining a course of action.
- Utilize the Equal Opportunity Advisor for information regarding tattoos. You will find most are well versed in this area.
- Ask the service member when and where the tattoo came from. Location and background will help you identify gang and prison tattoos.

- Keep your Chain of Command informed.

Conclusion

- Supremacist and hate group tattoos are relatively easy to spot. Gang and prison tattoos are an ever changing subject.
- Caution must be exercised when determining appropriate or inappropriate tattoos. The service member may not know the tattoo’s full meaning .
- If in doubt, ask your Chain of Command and/or the Equal Opportunity Advisor.

Review

- Extremist groups tattoos and symbols.
- Prison tattoos.
- Numerical tattoos
- Controversial tattoos and symbols.
- How should we handle the issue when we spot them.